

go astray by seeing such things carried on while walking along the streets. If the redlights were opened it would protect our youth rather than to harm it. It would be put off where it would not be as public as street soliciting. Some religious cranks say it would be a sin to open the redlights, but the Lord says the world cannot exist without sin.

Then why should we not try to keep the sinners from those that do not sin? If the Lord cannot do away with sin, how can we expect to do a thing He says cannot be done? It is our duty to keep the men and women from going astray, but if it is in them and they will do so they should be put away from men and women who lead a respectable life.—William Walter.

#### THE PROSPERITY RACKET.—

With lots of noise and oceans of advertising space in the daily papers, ostensibly free, the new city administration is starting on its road to the prosperity goal. If there were anything new in the loudly-proclaimed program the poor and unemployed might indulge in hope for the future, but as far as we can see it is headed over the time-worn route of special privilege toward the hoary and bleary-eyed aristocracy, whose plea is "Make us rich and we will take care of the poor."

If the poor had time and strength and liberty to think they would discover this antiquated sham and make short work of the job of removing it, and would start a new route to prosperity over the hills toward freedom. But the "destruction of the poor is their poverty," and everything that the beneficiaries of special privilege purpose to do to help the poor will increase their poverty.

Employment is to be found for labor by making good roads, by digging canals, by building boulevards and making new parks. A city beautiful is to arise and the plague spots of poverty are to be abolished. Crime

is to be suppressed and criminals to be driven from the city or jailed. Chicago is to be boomed the world over as the greatest place for business, the most beautiful health resort and the finest place on earth for people to live.

Beggars will be put in jail for asking alms on the street, while gentlemanly beggars for special privileges from congress and state legislatures go in palace cars unmolested. All this prosperity and glory is going to cost millions and millions of money.

How are the funds to be obtained? By taxing the working and producing forces of the city to the limit. By taxing the food and the clothing and the shelter of the people. By taxing things produced by labor, so that more labor must be expended to get them. By taxing houses so that rent will be higher and the poor will be forced more and more into the slums. By issuing long-time bonds with enormous interest burdens for posterity to pay. By doing everything that will enable monopolists to increase their revenues and nothing at all to help the poor to better conditions.

To make a better city to live in this manner is to decrease the earnings of the workers and make their condition worse. The beautiful city will be like the whitewashed tombs of the Orient, full of misery and decay and dead men's bones.

If the poor were wiser and if the rich and well-to-do had knowledge and understanding they would work together and establish justice and righteousness in the getting of funds for the making of the city beautiful. They would abolish all taxes upon things that are produced by labor and tax nothing but special privilege. They would know that the annual value of the bare land of Chicago is sufficient to pay every dollar of expense for doing the things that ought to be done for the benefit of our people, and that the getting of the revenue in that way would automatically raise wages, abolish poverty and bring such prosperity to Chi-